

HISTORICAL DICTIONARY OF THE SUDAN

Third Edition

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Historical Dictionary of the Sudan

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To peace, justice, and unity in Sudan

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ABBREVIATIONS

IJAHS	<i>International Journal of African Historical Studies</i> , Boston
IJMES	<i>International Journal of Middle East Studies</i> , Cambridge
JAH	<i>Journal of African History</i>
JARCE	<i>Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt</i> , Cairo
JAS	<i>Journal of African Studies</i>
JEA	<i>Journal of Egyptian Archaeology</i> , London
JMAS	<i>Journal of Modern African Studies</i>
JRAI	<i>Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute</i> , London
MEJ	<i>Middle East Journal</i> , Washington, DC
SNR	<i>Sudan Notes and Records</i> , Khartoum

INTRODUCTION

A wide variety of information on Sudan is available to the English-language reader. Both Sudanese and Western scholars have written valuable works that both analyze and interpret the history and culture of Sudan. It is thus possible to learn about major aspects of the Sudanese experience from a variety of perspectives. (Note that references and entries on prehistoric and ancient Nubia to the end of Christianity can be found in the forthcoming *Historical Dictionary of Ancient Nubia*.)

General reference works of special value are Richard Hill, *A Biographical Dictionary of the Sudan*, which covers ancient times to the twentieth century and Mandour el-Mahdi, *A Short History of the Sudan*, which presents a summary of Sudanese history from antiquity to present times; two general, multidisciplinary descriptions are H. D. Nelson, *Area Handbook for the Democratic Republic of the Sudan*, published by the U.S. Government Printing Office, and *Sudan Today*, prepared by the Sudanese Ministry of Information and Culture.

For the early Islamic era, two works are very useful. They are Yusuf Fadl Hasan, *The Arabs and the Sudan: From the Seventh to the Early Sixteenth Century*, and R. S. O'Fahey and J. L. Spaulding, *Kingdoms of the Sudan and the Tabaqat Wad Dafalla*. An older, but still useful, reference work is H. A. MacMichael's *A History of the Arabs in the Sudan*.

For the modern era a variety of sources are available. A helpful general introduction is P. M. Holt, *A Modern History of the Sudan*, which is now available in a newer version coauthored with M. W. Daly, *The History of the Sudan from the Coming of Islam to the Present Day*. A. B. Theobald's *Ali Dinar, Last Sultan of Darfur, 1898–1916* captures the spirit of the last sultanate of Sudan in the twentieth century. Richard Hill's *Egypt in the Sudan, 1820–1881* gives an account of the Turco-Egyptian period and P. M. Holt's *The Mahdist State in the Sudan, 1881–1898* is the standard work on the Mahdist period. The latter can be supplemented with the exciting, but Eurocentric, literature of "the prisoners of the Mahdi" genre, e.g., Rudolf von Slatin's *Fire and Sword in the Sudan*. It should be remembered, additionally, that much of this genre's material originated as anti-Mahdist war propaganda, and many of these same biases also appear in the writings about Charles "Chinese" Gordon. For an insider's view of the Mahdiya, one can read *The Memoirs of Babikr Bedri*. A growing Sudanese scholarship on the Mahdist period has also been inspired by Muhammad I. Abu Salim's organization of the documentation sources at the Dar al-Watha'iq in Khartoum.

A variety of perspectives are now available on the history of the Anglo-Egyptian period (1899–1956). Many British administrators wrote accounts of their experiences, as in H. C. Jackson, *Sudan Days and Ways*, and others wrote more general accounts. One of the more interesting accounts is *The Sudan*, which was written by a former civil secretary H. A. MacMichael, and another account centered around the life of another civil secretary, namely *The Making of the Modern Sudan: The Life and Letters of Sir Douglas Newbold* by K. D. D. Henderson. The period of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan is also given comprehensive treatment in a two-volume history by Martin W. Daly, namely *Empire on the Nile: The Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, 1898–1934* and *Imperial Sudan: The Anglo-Egyptian Condominium, 1935–1956*, published in 1986 and 1991, respectively, by Cambridge University Press.

For Sudanese perspectives, one should read the scholarly accounts in M. Abd al-Rahim, *Imperialism and Nationalism in the Sudan*; M. O. Beshir, *Revolution and Nationalism in the Sudan*; and the recent work by Robert Collins and Francis Deng, *The British in the Sudan, 1989–1956*. The liter-

ature by Sudanese scholars on anticolonial and nationalist activities during the Condominium has increased since the first edition. This is reflected in the bibliographical section on the Anglo-Egyptian period.

A number of valuable works on Sudan since independence have appeared since Mekki Shibeika's *The Independent Sudan*, 1959, and Peter Bechtold's *Politics in the Sudan*, 1976. These include special issues of *Africa Today* (N.B.: 1981), *Arab Studies Quarterly* (N.B.: 1999), and *Sudan since 1989: The Turabi al-Bashir Years*, which was edited by Richard Lobban and Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban. One might also examine Peter Woodward's *Condominium and Sudanese Nationalism* published in 1979 and *Sudan, 1898–1989: The Unstable State*, 1990. *Sudan Since Independence: Studies of Political Development since 1956* is an excellent collection of essays, which was edited by Muddathir Abdel Rahim and others in 1986.

The issue of the history of the independent Sudan that is, perhaps, most critical is the "Southern Problem." An excellent summary of both the southern conflict and southern history can be found in Robert O. Collins, *The Southern Sudan, 1883–1898: A Struggle for Control*, 1962. A variety of southern perspectives can be found in O. Albino's *The Sudan: A Southern Viewpoint*, which was written before the settlement of 1972, and Dunstan Wai's *The Southern Sudan: The Problem of National Integration*, 1973. Mansour Khalid's *John Garang Speaks*, 1987, and G. Sorbo and Abdel Ghaffar M. Ahmed's *Management of the Crisis in the Sudan*, 1989, will bring the reader up to date in regard to the renewal of conflict and civil war since 1983. Historical coverage is provided in two books by the northern Sudanese writer M. O. Beshir, namely *The Southern Sudan: Background to Conflict* and *The Southern Sudan: From Conflict to Peace*.

Many of the now classical ethnic studies concern Sudan. The best known are the works of E. E. Evans-Pritchard, e.g., *The Nueri and Witchcraft, Oracles, and Magic Among the Azande*. Studies of the Dinka by Francis Deng, especially *Tradition and Modernization: A Challenge for Law among the Dinka of the Sudan*, *Africans of Two Worlds: The Dinka in Afro-Arab Sudan*, and *The Man Called Deng Majok: A Biography of Power, Polygyny and Change*, 1987, have enriched ethnographic knowledge of the southern region. While earlier studies during the colonial period tended to concentrate on southern groups, studies of northern peoples are more common since the outbreak of civil war in 1955, and its renewal in 1983, made research in the southern region all but impossible. Some of the better-known postcolonial studies of northern ethnic groups are Talal Asad's *The Kababish Arabs*; Ian Cunnison's *Baggara Arabs*; and Harold Barclay's *Burri al-Lamaab*. An exciting new dimension in the ethnographic literature

of Sudan has been the documentation of the lives of women and their participation in history and culture, which is reflected in new sections in the bibliography as well as the dictionary itself.

Other fields reflect the diversity that has come to characterize the growing scholarship of Sudan. In the realm of economics there are valuable special studies, such as J. D. Tothill, *Agriculture in the Sudan*; A. Gaitskell, *Gezira: A Story of Development in the Sudan*; Sa'd al-Din Fawzi, *The Labour Movement in the Sudan, 1946–1955*; and Mohamed Abdel Rahman Ali, *Government Expenditure and Economic Development: A Case Study of the Sudan*. In the area of religion, there is the still useful *Islam in the Sudan* by J. S. Trimingham and G. Vantini's *Christianity in the Sudan*, 1981, which covers ancient as well as contemporary history. The area of law has seen some important works emerge, such as *Islamic Law and Society in the Sudan*, 1987, by Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban, and a new section entitled Law and Islamization, especially since Ja'atar al-Nimeiri proclaimed Shari'a to be state law in 1983, can be found in the bibliographic section on politics.

Since 1989, when allegations of a revival of slavery and human rights abuses directed against non-Muslim minorities began to surface under the 'Umer al-Bashir regime, a growing literature has developed, which is reflected in a new section on human rights. The issue of refugees fleeing from Sudan's chronic civil war is also covered in a new section of the bibliography.

To follow current affairs in Sudan, people can use the chronologies in the *Middle East Journal*, published in Washington, DC, by the Middle East Institute and in *Africa Report*, published in New York. The annual reviews in *Africa Contemporary Record* are also helpful.

The following are occasional publications, documentation sources, or distribution outlets that publish materials relating to the study of Sudan:

- The *Sudan Studies Association Newsletter*, a publication of the Sudan Studies Association (USA), is a quarterly publication that includes organizational and member news, recent publications, book and film reviews, and current affairs. The current editor (1990–1992) is Isma'il 'Abdalla of the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia. (N.B.: Vol. No. 1, 1981–present.)

- *Sudan Studies* is the official newsletter of the Sudan Studies Society of the United Kingdom and includes news, reports of research in Sudan, and current affairs, and it is published twice a year. Inquiries can be addressed to the following: Hon. Editor, Justin Wills, 43 North Bailey, Durham DH1 ZEX, England. (N.B.: 1987–present.)

- The Centre of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies' Documentation Unit at the University of Durham has numerous Sudanese government and occasional publications relating to Sudan. The Sudan Collection at the University of Durham is overseen by Lesley Forbes and contains unique documents and memorabilia related to the British colonial experience in the Sudan. Ithaca Press (8 Richmond Road, Exeter EX4 4JA, United Kingdom) has undertaken the copublication along with the Graduate College and the University of Khartoum of many monographs and books that would ordinarily only appear in Sudan. These monographs cover a wide range of subjects in the sciences, social sciences, and humanities. They are primarily related to Sudanese studies.

- The Middle East Bibliographic Services (12077 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 605, Los Angeles, California 90025, USA) distributes a number of titles relating to Sudan that, likewise, would not ordinarily be available in North America.

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